

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A core sample collector comprising:
_____ a cylinder extending in a vertical direction, and
a piston which is movably arranged movably within the
cylinder, ~~wherein the piston is equipped with a~~ and which
includes a piston body,
_____ sterilizing agent-applying mechanism means for applying a
sterilizing agent to an inner peripheral wall surface of the
cylinder, and [[a]]
at least one sterilizing agent-scraping member for scraping
the sterilizing agent from the inner peripheral wall surface of
the cylinder after the sterilizing agent has been applied by the
sterilizing agent-applying mechanism means as [[it]] the piston
moves within the cylinder, _____
wherein the at least one sterilizing agent-scraping member
comprises an upper piston ring and a lower piston ring,
_____ wherein the upper piston ring and lower piston ring are both
arranged to project outward in a radial direction from an outer
peripheral surface of the piston body and to slidably contact the
inner peripheral wall surface of the cylinder, and
_____ wherein the sterilizing agent-applying means comprises
sterilizing agent arranged in a space defined between the piston,
the cylinder, the upper piston ring and the lower piston ring.

Claim 2 (Cancelled).

3. (Currently Amended) The core sample collector according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the sterilizing agent-applying mechanism ~~is made up by arranging~~ means further comprises a sterilizing agent carrier arranged within the space formed ~~by partitioning the vacant space~~ between the piston_L and the cylinder_L with the upper piston ring and the lower piston ring_L and ~~causing wherein~~ the sterilizing agent ~~to be~~ is carried and held ~~on by~~ the sterilizing agent carrier.

4. (Currently Amended) The core sample collector according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the sterilizing agent ~~is~~ comprises one of an antimicrobial ~~or~~ and a bactericidal plastic polymeric substance.

5. (Currently Amended) The core sample collector according to claim 3, wherein the sterilizing agent ~~is~~ comprises one of an antimicrobial ~~or~~ and a bactericidal plastic polymeric substance.

6. (Currently Amended) A method of ~~taking a core sample,~~ ~~comprising~~ using the core sample collector ~~according to~~ of claim 1 ~~or 2 to collect the core sample~~ comprising:

contacting the cylinder against a surface from which a core sample is to be taken; and

causing relative movement between the cylinder and the piston such that: (i) the sterilizing agent-applying means applies sterilizing agent to the inner peripheral wall surface of the cylinder, (ii) the sterilizing agent-scraping member scrapes the sterilizing agent from the inner peripheral wall, and (iii) a core is received in the cylinder.

7. (Currently Amended) A method of ~~taking a core sample, comprising~~ using the core sample collector according to of claim 3 ~~to collect the core sample comprising:~~

contacting the cylinder against a surface from which a core sample is to be taken; and

causing relative movement between the cylinder and the piston such that: (i) the sterilizing agent-applying means applies sterilizing agent to the inner peripheral wall surface of the cylinder, (ii) the sterilizing agent-scraping member scrapes the sterilizing agent from the inner peripheral wall, and (iii) a core is received in the cylinder.

8. (Currently Amended) A method of ~~taking a core sample, comprising~~ using the core sample collector according to of claim 4 ~~to collect the core sample comprising:~~

contacting the cylinder against a surface from which a core sample is to be taken; and
causing relative movement between the cylinder and the piston such that: (i) the sterilizing agent-applying means applies sterilizing agent to the inner peripheral wall surface of the cylinder, (ii) the sterilizing agent-scraping member scrapes the sterilizing agent from the inner peripheral wall, and (iii) a core is received in the cylinder.

9. (Currently Amended) A method of ~~taking a core sample, comprising~~ using the core sample collector ~~according to of~~ claim 5 ~~to collect the core sample comprising:~~

contacting the cylinder against a surface from which a core sample is to be taken; and
causing relative movement between the cylinder and the piston such that: (i) the sterilizing agent-applying means applies sterilizing agent to the inner peripheral wall surface of the cylinder, (ii) the sterilizing agent-scraping member scrapes the sterilizing agent from the inner peripheral wall, and (iii) a core is received in the cylinder.

10. (New) The core sample collector according to claim 1, wherein the upper piston ring is arranged on the outer peripheral surface of the piston body.

11. (New) The core sample collector according to claim 1, wherein the lower piston ring is arranged on the outer peripheral surface of the piston body.

12. (New) The core sample collector according to claim 1, wherein the upper piston ring and the lower piston ring are both arranged on the outer peripheral surface of the piston body.

13. (New) The core sample collector according to claim 1, further comprising an additional upper piston ring arranged substantially parallel to the upper piston ring and on an upper portion of the outer peripheral surface of the piston body.

14. (New) The core sample collector according to claim 1, further comprising an additional lower piston ring arranged substantially parallel to the lower piston ring and on a lower portion of the outer peripheral surface of the piston body.

15. (New) The core sample collector according to claim 14, further comprising an additional upper piston ring arranged substantially parallel to the upper piston ring and on an upper portion of the outer peripheral surface of the piston body.

16. (New) The core sample collector according to claim 1, wherein the upper piston ring and the lower piston ring are arranged substantially parallel to each other and separated from each other.

17. (New) The core sample collector according to claim 1, wherein the piston body comprises a recessed portion between the upper piston ring and the lower piston ring, and the recessed portion has an outer diameter that is smaller than a diameter of the piston body.

18. (New) The core sample collector according to claim 1, wherein the upper piston ring and the lower piston ring are O-rings.

19. (New) The core sample collector according to claim 18, wherein the O-rings are arranged on and around the outer peripheral surface of the piston body.